



RURAL DISTRICT OF WAYLAND

THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TOGETHER WITH  
THE  
REPORT  
OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969



S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

A. AFNAN

M.D. D.L.O., D.P.H., L.A.H., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Inspector under Petroleum Acts.

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(Also holds the Certificate for the  
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Committees concerned with matters of Public Health

WATER AND SEWERAGE COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

HOUSING COMMITTEE



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## WAYLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report on the health service of the District for the year 1969.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population was 20,960 this is the same as the last years figure of 20,960.

There were 305 live births, the adjusted birth rate is 16.7.

During the year there were 223 deaths, the adjusted death rate is 10.2. The deaths were mostly attributed to diseases of the heart, blood vessels and malignant neoplasms.

### Accidents

Fatal accidents on the road are steadily moving up the list to become one of the top ten causes of death. In 1967, for example, deaths due to motor accidents were at 7120 - only 400 fewer than those attributed to "Hypertension with heart disease".

Written down, added up, analysed and published, the figures are horrifically bland : 100,000 fatalities in Europe each year, two thirds this number again for the U.S.A., 15,000 for Japan. The cure for this disease, as for every other, lies on the other side of an unpredictably long and costly research effort. Indeed, in terms of cost it will almost certainly exceed any programme ever mounted to eliminate a cause of death. The pathology of the road accident a complexity of physiological, psychological and social disorders, will take a long time to fully understand, even though some of the best brains in the world are steadily being put to work in some of the best equipped laboratories, to solve it. Like the plague, it is burning its way through the population with "Cure" only a remote prospect, and there are no signs yet that gradual control - such as that exercised over tuberculosis for instance - lies in the hands of any healer. But a cure there must be for this man-made disease. The World Health Organisation, in a recent document which passes fairly efficiently over statistics, concludes with a strong recommendation for more and more research. The W.H.O's. regional Committee for Europe at their Budapest conference described road traffic accidents as "a public health problem", which will be cut only through intensive research at Government, Industrial, University and Hospital level.

Four years ago the Scientific Research Council awarded a grant to the Department of Transportation and Environmental planning at the University of Birmingham to examine the possibilities of "Systematic investigation of traffic collisions". It sounds more academic than it turned out to be, for Birmingham's has been one of the most fruitful projects ever handled by a University Department. Its report is a dedicated piece of scientific teamwork, which involved on-the-spot studies and the operation of a night and day rota of researches in constant communication with police and ambulance services. Costs were relatively low, the information output very high.

Its implications bear on highway engineering, car and component design, driver education and medicine. Like most reports it looks ahead to the next study.

### Pollution

The danger to health from atmospheric pollution is mainly in the incidence of respiratory disease, principally bronchitis. The extreme case in this country was the London smog of 5-8 December, 1952, to which was attributed the deaths of 4,000 persons in 3 weeks, and a further 8,000 in the next 3 months. This tragedy led to the appointment of the Beaver Committee in 1953 and the Clean Air Act, 1956. There had been previous smog incidents in 1873, 1880, 1891 and 1948, and others in 1956 and 1962, but, extreme cases - when life is at hazard and public opinion is aroused to the point of demanding action are fortunately rare. With less lethal concentrations of pollutants people who suffer from respiratory diseases are affected so that they have to stay away from work - according to a 1956 Office of Health Economics Report, 76 million days were lost in a year due to respiratory diseases and of these some 40 million were attributed to bronchitis.



Until recently low sulphur fuels were in short supply and relatively expensive and their compulsory use could hardly be justified economically. This position changed with the discovery of natural gas in the North Sea in quantities estimated to provide approximately 15 per cent of the Country's total energy supplies by 1975. We are fortunate that this new indigenous fuel is of excellent quality and practically free from sulphur. Like U.S.A., Holland and France, we shall be able to use natural gas to reduce atmospheric pollution.

### Influenza

The variant of influenza A2 which emerged in Hong Kong in mid July, 1968 and was expected to hit hard during winter 1968-69 did not do so.

Towards the end of 1968 the Department of Health and Social Security recommended widespread vaccination against influenza for those groups of persons likely to be complication victims, but, vaccines including A2 variant were not ready and fortunately the epidemic did not develop.

A warning was given by W.H.O. on 8th December, 1969 that this strain of A2 Hong Kong influenza virus had been circulating the world over the past 12 months and it was obvious that it could visit these shores.

The inability to limit the spread of influenza viruses throughout the world has encouraged Immunologists to direct much time and energy to producing vaccines to enhance individual resistance to infection. When one considers the overall loss to the Nations economy as a result of influenza and common cold absenteeism - then common sense would seem to indicate that this form of research be given top national priority. The news that the Common Cold Research Unit has developed a live influenza vaccine and that trials of this oral prophylactic are to be instituted is encouraging.

### Rubella

Rubella is generally a mild disease with no serious complication. If, however, it is contracted by a woman in the first 3 months of pregnancy there is a 10-15% risk that the baby may be born with serious malformations, which includes blindness, deafness, heart diseases, and mental and physical retardation.

During 1964 epidemics in the U.S.A. over 20,000 babies were born with defects due to rubella infections in their mothers. In Britain it has been estimated that about 1,500 women might be expected to contract rubella in an epidemic year. In a non-epidemic year, these figures might be about 500. Small rubella epidemics are likely to occur as often as every six years in minor forms, but, major epidemics at intervals of 8-10 years.

Doctors can now vaccinate against Rubella. The Committee on the safety of Drugs has cleared an injectable vaccine and doctors have had letters telling them it is now available on the N.H.S.

The Medical Research Council is still assessing the vaccine and the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is considering what would be the best age to vaccinate. The likely duration of the protection afforded by the vaccine available is clearly of importance in fixing the age at which they should be given, from the main aspect of reducing foetal damage.

### Rabies

A widespread outbreak of rabies is threatening Europe for the first time in 50 years. Health Authorities are concerned that the disease is being spread westward across Europe, by wild animals. According to a report published by the W.H.O. the Netherlands, Ireland and Scandinavia are now the only European territories free from the disease. Human cases are rare in Europe and there is no known cure for the disease, which can lead to acute brain fever, paralysis and death. Injection of serum after a person has been bitten and before the disease takes hold (usually two months or more) generally prevents the onset of the disease. In recent years more than 26,000 people in Europe have had to receive the painful course of injections into the abdomen. Foxes have now become the main carriers of rabies, and this poses a new problem for health authorities, who find it more difficult to control infected wild animals than domestic dogs and cats which were regarded previously as the traditional carriers. The W.H.O. and the Food & Agriculture Organisation last year began a 3 years research programme to study whether the disease could be eradicated in central Europe by control of the fox population. The W.H.O. report says that a combination of shooting and gassing can reduce their numbers by 80 per cent.

In Britain where several cases have been detected among domestic animals in recent months, the import of all dogs and cats from March 12th was banned and a Committee of enquiry set up to examine other possible precautions.

### Typhoid

Last year 162 Typhoid cases were recorded in England and Wales, the highest number since 1963. Three people died of Typhoid and three of Paratyphoid fever of which there were 193 cases. Threequarters of typhoid cases and more than half of paratyphoid infections were imported, with several outbreaks amongst holiday makers and other travellers returning from abroad. The vital importance of typhoid vaccination for people travelling abroad is insufficiently recognized.

In conclusion I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement throughout the year and my appreciation of the work of the staff of the department, including the clerical staff, who have always shown themselves willing in the care of public health.

A. AFNAN

Medical Officer of Health.



WAYLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	106,818
Estimated Resident Population	20,960
Rateable Value	£517,446
Sum produced by a penny rate	£ 2,050

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Wayland R. D. C.			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	146	138	284	730,500
Illegitimate	9	12	21	67,042
Totals	155	150	305	797,542

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population :-      Crude      15.0  
    Adjusted    16.7

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Wayland R. D. C.			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	-	-	-	9,555
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,107
Totals	-	-	-	10,662

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births :-    NIL.

Table 4. TOTAL BIRTHS.

	Wayland R. D. C.			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Live	155	150	305	797,542
Still	-	-	-	10,662
Totals	155	150	305	808,204

Table 5. INFANT DEATHS

(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year)

	Wayland R. D. C.			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	4	2	6	12,694
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,703
Totals	4	2	6	14,397

Infant Mortality Rate:      Total                    = 20    (per 1,000 live births)  
    Legitimate            = 21    (per 1,000 legitimate births)  
    Illegitimate       = Nil    (per 1,000 illegitimate births)



Table 5. (b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during first four weeks)

	Wayland R. D. C.			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	3	2	5	8,494
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,109
Totals	3	2	5	9,603

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate = 16 (Per 1,000 total births)

(c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under one week)

	Wayland R. D. C.			England & Wales
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	3	1	4	7,266
Illegitimate	-	-	-	966
Totals	3	1	4	8,232

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate = 13 (Per 1,000 total births)

Table 6. DEATHS (All ages)

Wayland R. D. C.			England & Wales
Male	Female	Total	
107	116	223	

Death Rate : Crude 10.9 (Per 1,000 Population)  
Adjusted 10.2 (Per 1,000 Population)

Table 7. CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	1	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	1	3
Totals	4	2	6

Table 8. DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	3	2	5
4 weeks and under 1 year	1	-	1
1 year and under 5 years	1	-	1
5 years and under 15 years	1	-	1
15 " " " 25 "	1	1	2
25 " " " 35 "	1	2	3
35 " " " 45 "	2	4	6
45 " " " 55 "	5	5	10
55 " " " 65 "	14	9	23
65 " " " 75 "	38	25	63
75 " " over	40	68	108
Totals	107	116	223

Table 9. CAUSES OF DEATH (All ages)

		Male	Female	Total
B18	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus	-	1	1
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	4	4
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	2	4
B19(5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	9	3	12
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4	4
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	5	5
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
B19(10)	Leukaemia	-	1	1
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	6	11
B20	Benign & Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1	1
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
B22	Avitaminoses, Etc.	1	-	1
B23	Anaemias	-	1	1
B46(2)	Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	2	-	2
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	1	-	1
B46(4)	Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	-	1	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	6	7
B27	Hypertensive Disease	2	4	6
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	34	22	56
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease	4	4	8
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	8	17	25
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	9	6	15
B32	Pneumonia	6	12	18
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	1	5
B33(2)	Asthma	1	-	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction & Hernia	1	-	1
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
B46(8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	2	3
B42	Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour	2	1	3
B45	Symptoms & Ill Defines Conditions	1	2	3
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	2	6
BE48	All Other Accidents	3	4	7
Totals		107	116	223

Table 10. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis  
According to age groups.

DISEASE	Age Group									Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5- 9	10- 14	15- 24	25 over	
Scarlet Fever						4	1			5
Whooping Cough										NIL
Measles	4	3	7	10	14	38	3	1	4	84
Pneumonia										NIL
Enteritis										NIL



Table 11. TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Year	Respiratory			Other			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1969							
1968	43	37	80	28	16	44	124
1967	43	36	79	28	16	44	123
1966	43	37	80	27	16	43	123
1965	45	37	82	27	16	43	125

Table 12. TETANUS IMMUNISATION - Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth						Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962- 1965	Others Under 16	
Primary	72	348	51	15	18	26	530
Booster	1	108	215	54	359	287	1024
Totals	73	456	266	69	377	313	1554

Table 13. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth						Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962- 1965	Others Under 16	
Primary	71	348	51	15	17	4	506
Booster	1	108	215	51	332	118	825
Totals	72	456	266	66	349	122	1331

Table 14. WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATIONS - Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth						Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962- 1965	Others Under 16	
Primary	65	345	49	14	12	-	485
Booster	-	104	199	41	135	9	488
Totals	65	449	248	55	147	9	973

Table 15. ORAL POLIOMYELITIS - Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth						Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962- 1965	Others Under 16	
Primary	67	351	61	14	29	4	526
Booster	-	84	126	31	367	75	683
Totals	67	435	187	45	396	79	1209



Table 16. MEASLES VACCINATION - Health Area 6.

	Year of Birth						Totals
	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962- 1965	Others Under 16	
Single Dose Only	1	139	97	94	128	25	484

Table 17. SMALLPOX VACCINATION - Health Area 6.

Age at Date of Vaccination	Numbers Vaccinated	Numbers Re-vaccinated
0 - 3 Months	1	-
3 - 6 Months	-	-
6 - 9 Months	-	-
9 - 12 Months	-	-
1 Year	264	1
2 - 4 Years	149	10
5 - 15 Years	48	79
Totals:	462	90

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Annual Report is my nineteenth and covers the twenty-third year of my service with the Council.

During the year, 4,809 visits were made for all purposes and the benefit of the appointment of the additional Inspector in August, 1968, has been fully realised now that his priority task, in bringing up to date functions under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, is substantially completed.

A positive start has been made on Slum Clearance work and implimentation of the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Construction proceeded steadily on the New Buckenham sewerage scheme and plans were approved in respect of the Banham scheme during the year.

Considerable increase in the volume of meat inspection work again this year has been absorbed by the existing inspectorate without lowering standards of inspection in order to maintain one hundred per cent coverage.

The year has been one of satisfying progress in all fields and the change of my designation from "Senior" to "Chief Public Health Inspector" and Mr. Sheldrake's from "Additional" to "Deputy Chief" were the first, though least significant, of the new concepts of administration and procedure adopted by the Council in the light of the Maud Report, for implimentation in 1970.

The work of the Department is outlined in the following itemised report :-

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were investigated during the year (one at Attleborough and the other at Kilverstone).

Nine members of the part-time staff of a catering establishment, engaged to prepare and serve dinner at a public function were taken ill, at varying intervals, following the function.

All those affected had consumed portions of turkey which were surplus to requirements for the dinner following which none of the one hundred and fifty diners suffered.

Unfortunately, none of the unconsumed turkey was available when notification of the outbreak was received but Salmonella investigation was put in hand on live turkeys, deep-frozen carcasses and litter from the turkey houses at the production premises, all with negative results.

All sufferers engaged in food handling were excluded from work until laboratory clearance was given.

#### MEAT INSPECTION

The establishment of Authorised Meat Inspectors has remained at seven, six of them allocated to permanent duty at Watton Abattoir and one small establishment at Watton. The seventh Inspector covered the slaughterhouse at Banham and the one at Kenninghall until its closure in November. The slaughterhouse at East Harling is covered by the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

Inspection routine was maintained in all cases at a very high standard and in conformity with the provisions of the appropriate Regulations.

Despite the fact that the total throughput in the District rose from 215,388 animals in 1968 to 235,650 in 1969 and at Watton Abattoir from 191,136 in 1968 to 213,970 in 1969, notifications of "missed" disease conditions in meat consigned to a wide area of the country, have been too few to warrant special comment. This fact in itself pays tribute to the efficiency and diligence of the inspection staff, often operating in unfavourable conditions.



Progress in inspection achievement is illustrated in the following table, relating to Watton Abattoir only :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Animals Slaughtered</u>	<u>Carcases Inspected</u>	<u>Percentage Inspected</u>	<u>Number of Inspectors</u>
1969	213,970	213,970	100%	6
1968	191,136	191,136	100%	6
1967	171,182	171,182	100%	( 5 for 6 months ( 6 for 6 months
1966	159,753	131,647	82.4%	4

Notwithstanding the increase in throughput by the same number of inspectors, the Council still suffers a serious financial deficit on this service.

Salaries have risen, laundry charges have increased as also have costs of protective clothing and equipment whilst statutory charges, levied on slaughterhous proprietors in respect of the service, have remained at the level at which they were fixed in 1963.

The following table shows inspection achievement (with corresponding figures for previous years) and gives details of disease conditions found and condemnations of unfit meat throughout the District :-

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Cattle Excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sows</u>	<u>Boars</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Killed	1969	3,919	1,294	127	6,102	203,899	16,607	3,704	235,650
	1968	4,457	2,031	156	8,843	184,022	12,938	2,941	215,388
	1967	3,797	1,670	225	12,222	164,479	11,240	3,172	196,805
	1966	4,000	1,918	221	12,606	154,375	11,214	3,105	187,439
<hr/>									
Totals									
Inspected									
	1969	3,919	1,294	127	6,102	203,899	16,607	3,704	235,650
	1968	4,457	2,031	156	8,843	184,022	12,938	2,941	215,388
	1967	3,797	1,670	225	12,222	164,479	11,240	3,172	196,805
	1966	3,856	1,565	172	12,355	132,285	7,115	1,332	158,680
	1965	3,897	267	189	9,042	100,255	3,735	819	118,204
	1964	4,075	284	167	8,135	81,613	2,856	717	97,847
	1963	4,904	461	212	7,650	70,779	4,067	923	88,996
	1962	4,170	441	121	8,440	26,516	3,246	634	43,568
	1961	2,844	583	154	9,319	14,271	1,537	226	28,934
	1960	2,171	624	204	7,216	10,193	1,203	122	21,733

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.

Whole carcasses  
condemned

1969	8	27	16	19	653	167	12	902
1968	14	61	17	50	614	191	8	955
1967	7	56	21	58	549	164	6	861

Carcases of which  
some part or organ  
was condemned

1969	1,514	361	14	431	41,365	4,170	12	47,867
1968	1,353	704	13	545	37,381	2,519	14	42,529
1967	1,267	513	21	904	28,371	1,755	41	32,872



<u>Year</u>	<u>Cattle</u> <u>Excluding</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sows</u>	<u>Boars</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>								
Whole carcasses condemned								
1969	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
1968	4	-	-	-	24	-	1	29
1967	-	1	-	-	9	-	-	10

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned								
1969	2	-	-	-	4,616	21	1	4,640
1968	2	-	-	-	5,236	27	3	5,268
1967	1	-	-	-	3,530	46	22	3,599

<u>Cysticercosis.</u>								
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned								
1969	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
1968	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1967	9	1	-	-	1	-	-	11

Carcases treated by refrigeration			
1969	NIL		
1968	NIL		
1967	NIL		

Generalised and totally condemned			
1969	NIL		
1968	NIL		
1967	NIL		

<u>WEIGHT CONDEMNED</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Edible Offal	218,032 lbs.	206,087 lbs.	139,948 lbs.
Meat	181,287 lbs.	193,595 lbs.	200,913 lbs.
	-----	-----	-----
Totals:	399,319 lbs.	399,682 lbs.	340,861 lbs.
	=====	=====	=====
	178 Tons. 5 cwts. 1 qr. 11 lbs.	178 tons. 8 cwts. 2 qrs. 10 lbs.	152 tons. 3 cwts. 1 qtr. 17 lbs.

All condemnations were of meat and offals voluntarily surrendered.

One suspected case of Anthrax was not confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS YARDS

One small wholesale establishment at Kenninghall, closed in November.

Close co-operation with Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was maintained, particularly in connection with joint routine inspections and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the appropriate legislation.

In three of the five slaughterhouses licensed at the beginning of the year, defects were notified and remedied whilst the remaining two were in order.

Minor defects were also remedied at the one Knacker Yard licensed within the District.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the unlicensed use of premises as a knackers' yard.

Of six charges brought, three were dismissed and two withdrawn. On the sixth charge a fine of £20. was imposed, with £10. costs, in relation to the use of unlicensed premises.

The proprietors of Watton Abattoir made formal application for extension of slaughtering hours and appeared before the appropriate Committee in support of their request.

The application was refused when it was proved by detailed records that operational capacity was being grossly underused, particularly on certain days of each week.

As in previous years, the problem of maintaining satisfactory standards of hygiene, is in some cases, aggravated by commercial considerations taking preference over all other aspects.

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958.

Seven new "conditional" licences to slaughter were added to the register, making a total of thirty-seven.

## FOOD PREMISES

Forty-three food premises were inspected and defects, in contravention of the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, were remedied at six public houses, one cafe, one butcher's shop, one fish and chip shop.

At a second fish and chip shop, the provision of sanitary accommodation was outstanding at the end of the year.

Sanitary accommodation and hand-washing facilities were provided at one retail fruit shop.

## DISTRIBUTION OF MILK.

Two new registrations were granted in respect of distributors of milk, under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

## WATER SUPPLIES

Six domestic supplies were sampled, three of which proved to be satisfactory and two unsatisfactory.

In the remaining case the analyst's report was awaited.

Remedial measures in the two unsatisfactory cases were, connection to the Council's mains in one instance and provision of a chlorination plant in the other.



## NOISE

Complaints concerning noise from 'beat' dances have been dealt with during the year.

The significance of the affects of noise on our lives was high-lighted at a one-day conference at the Seymoor Hall, London early in January.

Evidence of noise-induced deafness is very impressive and one expert in this field alleges that among entrants to one University it was found that a quarter of them suffered hearing impairment comparable to that of a person of sixty-five years of age and that all those affected had been in the habit of attending discotheques.

Development of high-powered machines of all types appears to have outstripped research into and production of less noisy machines and the net result is reduced efficiency, brought about by interrupted sleep.

Costly sound insulation of buildings cannot do anything to protect people exposed to traffic noise outside those buildings, nor does it improve the working conditions of those employed on noisy machines within them.

The inevitable spread of residential development to the countryside and the necessity for growth of industry to maintain new conurbations present a major problem for the future and emphasise the urgent need for development of low noise-level machines of all types as well as diligence and positive action on the part of local authorities when dealing with planning applications.

## COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

The major problems of this service arise not from the collection of refuse, which demands only adequate staff and vehicles on the Council's part and suitable receptacles by the householder.

Difficulties present themselves from the point at which the load has to be discharged, where is it to go, is there a suitable hole in the ground, accessible, sited at sufficient distance from habitation and large enough for long-term usage?

Having found such a disposal site, what are the prospects of providing material for daily covering of deposits, except at prohibitive cost?

Furthermore, how often are suitable disposal sites located so as to satisfy these criteria and at the same time minimise travelling from collection areas?

In practice, apart from the fact that few sites are left, it is virtually impossible to satisfy all these requirements and for this reason, what is usually termed controlled tipping is in fact crude tipping, with the inevitable public health hazards.

It is at this point that our service becomes unsatisfactory, in common with that of many other local authorities.

In consequence, the Norfolk Group Working Party, having studied the problems of some fifteen Authorities, in their report envisaged continuation of tipping as a short term measure and this only if properly controlled in accordance with Ministry standards and operated jointly by groups of neighbouring Authorities, who would probably need to provide pulverisation plant to ensure efficient disposal.

Public resistance, apart from health considerations, will doubtless outlaw current practice in the not too distant future and it is important that future thinking be directed, in the first instance, towards the Working Party's short term recommendations and finally to their long term plan involving centralised incineration plant.

In the meantime, the problems referred to beset us at the Attleborough, Watton and Harling disposal sites.



Additionally, the Attleborough site continues to give rise to smoke nuisance from time to time and its remaining capacity is sufficient for about two more years usage.

During the year negotiations were initiated by the Air Ministry with a view to the Council taking over refuse collection at R.A.F. Watton.

Hartismere R.D.C. and Eye Borough Council signified their willingness to accept a quantity of refuse for treatment at their pulverisation plant, but, owing to the length of haul involved, the offer could not be accepted.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF NIGHTSOIL

Completion of the Attleborough and East Harling sewerage schemes created spare capacity in the nightsoil collection service and in November I recommended that, with the advent of new transport regulations, (which raised serious problems relating to the hours of drivers) the opportunity should be taken to allow the service to run down rather than contemplate extensions of collection areas.

This recommendation was not acceptable to the Council and extensions to the parishes of Griston, Thompson, Merton, Croxton and Wretham were agreed upon.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The high level of demands for this service has continued this year despite the provision of new sewerage schemes at Attleborough and East Harling. Doubtless, in addition to the fact that soakage outlets lose efficiency with the passage of time, the adverse effect on semi-conservancy systems occasioned by interruption of normal purifying processes by emptying contributes in no small way to the necessity for increased emptyings.

The following table gives a statistical picture of work undertaken and details of revenue from chargeable emptyings :-

<u>Free Emptyings</u>		<u>Chargeable Emptyings</u>			
<u>No. of Emptyings Undertaken</u>	<u>No. of loads taken out.</u>	<u>No. of Emptyings</u>	<u>No. of loads taken out.</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	
(1969)	607	717	623	1049	£1,342.
(1968)	594	690	752	1,101	£1,456.15s.
(1967)	450	582	480	734	£ 937, 5s.
(1966)	452	564	542	831	£1,063.10s.
(1965)	348	413	358	574	£ 741.
(1964)	333	402	402	652	£ 823.15s.

COUNCIL PROPERTIES

<u>No. of Emptyings</u>		<u>No. of loads taken out</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
(1969)	90	611	£666.
(1968)	37	241	£259.10s.
(1967)	45	168	£193.
(1966)	41	194	£215.
(1965)	30	101	£118.
(1964)	46	108	£131.

RODENT CONTROL

This service was maintained with two operators, travelling together in a van, as in previous years.

The statistical table which follows shows that despite increased routine inspections and treatments, complaints relating to infestations have more than doubled this year.

This fact seems to confirm the view that rodent control, carried out by individual authorities, with varying degrees of efficiency, is permitting rather than preventing rapid increase in the rodent population and that what is required for effective control is a larger organisation operating over a wide front and co-ordinating activities in adjoining areas at one time.

Existing legislation does make provision for enforcement of control measures by the local authority but does nothing to solve the problems arising from inability to synchronise effort over an area sufficiently large to ensure a reasonable measure of success.

Additionally, staffing levels are usually such that a large percentage of control exercises is restricted to a relatively small group of properties.

During the year destruction of wasp nests was added to the functions of our operators. Hitherto these were dealt with only when located within the structure of Council properties but in view of the numerous complaints received the service was extended to include all properties and a charge of 10/- per treatment was levied.

Twenty-nine such treatments were carried out in the first month of operation.

Details of rodent control inspections and treatments are shown in the following table (Figures for 1968 in parenthesis) :-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	(6,571) 6,716	(808) 817
2. a. Total number of Properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	(1,634) 3,263	(24) 67
b. Number infested by (i) Rats	(1,061) 1,689	(24) 40
(ii) Mice	(72) 91	(1) 6
3. Total number of Properties inspected for rats and /or mice for reasons other than notification	(1,706) 2,655	(15) 74
Number infested by (i) Rats	(1,212) 607	(14) 12
(ii) Mice	(37) 10	(1) 6
4. Sewers infested by rats	1	NIL

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

East Harling sewerage scheme, commissioned in April, 1968, failed to produce a final effluent in conformity with Royal Commission standards (30 mg/l Suspended Solids and 20 mg/l B.O.D.) until May, 1969, since when results have been consistantly good.

From this latter date however, difficulty has been experienced in desludging the primary sedimentation tanks due to the fact that the sludge fails to settle sufficiently to permit removal by normal methods.



Numerous analyses of the sludge and investigation by the Water Pollution Control Laboratory failed to reveal the cause of the trouble and efficient desludging is started by pushing the sludge to the bottom of the tank with a squeegee, designed for the purpose.

Work on the New Buckenham scheme continued throughout the year and a provisional layout plan of stage II of that scheme relating to the parish of Banham, was approved by the Council.

At Attleborough, unexpectedly rapid residential development necessitated reconsideration of the sewerage requirement, particularly in the Besthorpe Road area. Accordingly the Council's Consultants were instructed to prepare, in consultation with the County Planning Officer, a comprehensive report in this context, in respect of the whole parish of Attleborough.

A small sewer extension was completed at Griston Road, Watton and a section of a defective surface water sewer was renewed at Chapel Road, Attleborough during the year.

All private estate sewers were constructed in accordance with our specification preparatory to being taken over by the Council upon completion.

Authority was given for payment of closet conversion grants, under the Public Health Act, 1936, (Section 47) of £50. or 50% of the cost of conversion, per house, whichever is the least.

The laboratory at the Attleborough plant, serving a consortium of ten local authorities, has continued to give valuable assistance by regular analysis of plant effluents, trade effluents, sludge, etc.

One item of considerable interest is the continuous successful operation of cold sludge digestion at the Attleborough plant, even through the winter months,

Disposal of dried sludge has been to local farmers, free of charge, at the plants.

Analysis results from the four major plants are shown, against the Royal Commission standards required by the River Authority consents (Suspended Solids - 30 mg/l and Biochemical Oxygen Demand - 20 mg/l) in the following table :-

<u>Plant</u>	<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Average Suspended Solids</u>	<u>Average B.O.D.</u>	<u>Max. Susp. Solids</u>	<u>Min. Susp. Solids</u>	<u>Max. B.O.D.</u>	<u>Min. B.O.D.</u>
1. Attleborough	14	17 mg/l	12.4 mg/l	26 mg/l	9 mg/l	18 mg/l	6.7 mg/l
2. Gt. Ellingham	12	16	8	28	11	15.1	4.5
3. East Harling	19	14	8.1	25	6	17.8	3.0

(These samples were all taken after April, 1969 - All previous results were unsatisfactory).

4. Watton	14	18	12.7	33	3	20.6	6.2
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HOUSING

Twenty dwellings were represented as unfit during the year - 7 in the parish of Shropham, 4 at Attleborough, 2 at Thompson, 2 at Banham and 1 in each of the parishes of Kenninghall, East Harling, Watton, Rocklands and South Lopham.

Seven informal notices to repair were served and one repair request made to Crown property agents.

One sub-standard caravan was closed for habitation following informal representation.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government having called for a slum clearance programme for the years 1970-1973 the Council submitted their programme target as 20 to 25 dwellings in each of the four years.



OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Work under this Act having been given priority in 1968, initial surveys and remedial measures found to be necessary were substantially completed in that year.

Two new registrations were added and eighty-two visits were made to registered premises.

The Annual Report to the Minister of Labour, under Section 60, was submitted as follows :-

TABLE A REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS				TABLE C ANAYLYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR	
Class of premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year	Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)
Offices		37		Offices	148
Retail Shops	1	97	1	Retail Shops	273
Wholesale shops, warehouses		3		Wholesale departments, warehouses	16
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	7	1	Catering establishments open to the public	18
Fuel storage depots		1		Canteens	
TOTALS	2	145	2	Fuel storage depots	4
TABLE B				Total	459
Number of Visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to Registered Premises				Total Males	178
				Total Females	281
82					

No applications were received in respect of exemptions under the Act nor were any prosecutions instituted during the year.

No accidents were reported.

## ICE CREAM

Two new registrations of premises were granted under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of the storage and sale of pre-wrapped ice cream, bringing total registrations up to ninety-three.

## PETROLEUM

Two existing storage tanks and two new installations were tested and approved.

Pipelines were tested and approved following resiting of dispensing equipment at an existing installation.

## CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967.

The only request received concerned the removal of furniture deposited in a highway lay-by.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Two burials were carried out at public expense, under Section 50 of the Act and in both cases costs were irrecoverable.

## SCRAP METAL DEALERS

Two new Registrations were added to the register, making a total of seventeen such registrations.

## ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

One new licence was issued and one lapsed during the year, the total thereby remaining at three licensed premises on the register.

## DISINFESTATIONS

Two cases of scabies in one family were dealt with by disinfestation of bedding and personal clothing.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

At the Watton conveniences, for the second time in recent years, major repairs, resulting mainly from vandalism, were authorised by the Council at a cost of £207. In an effort to reduce maintenance costs it was decided to close these premises at 8 p.m. in future.

Similar repair and maintenance work is programmed for 1970 at the Attleborough conveniences.

## COMPLAINTS

Complaints received related to keeping of pigs, foul ditches, battery laying houses, a fly in a loaf of bread, deposits of refuse.


Those relating to foul ditches, being most numerous, support the Council's policy in pressing forward with village sewerage schemes.

The most serious complaint, concerning inadequacy of sanitary accommodation and hand-washing facilities for staff and pupils at Attleborough Primary School was the subject of representations by the Council to the Education Authority.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Again this year I can only repeat what I have said in previous years, by expressing sincere appreciation of the loyal service of the technical and manual staffs and in particular that of Mr. Sheldrake, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

The tolerant consideration of the Council and the co-operation of the staff of other departments is also acknowledged with gratitude.

  
Chief Public Health Inspector.